

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 HA-05 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 0712

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, SHUM, SF, US
SUBJECT: BANNINGS AND WIEHAHN VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 51775, (B) STATE 66742, (C) JOHANNESBURG A-18

1. DURING A MEETING WITH THE RLO ON MARCH 19, BANNED TRADE UNION ORGANIZERS ERIC (SOUTH AFRICAN) AND JEAN (AMERICAN) TYACKE SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA (STATE 51775) AND THE CURRENT ICFTU "WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE AFRICAN WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA", THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVING IN THE MAIL SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION MEVEMENT.

2. A REPRESENTATIVE OF CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP J.P. FITZGERALD, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT AT THE MARCH 19 MEETING, SAID THAT THE ARCHBISHOP IS PREPARING ANOTHER APPEAL TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER TO LIFT THE BANNING ORDERS WHICH WERE IMPOSED ON THE
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TYACKES AND LOET DOWWES DEKKER IN NOVEMBER 1976.

3. ACTION: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THESE DEVELOPMENTS WITH AFL-CIO DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ERNEST LEE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXPECTED VISIT NEXT MONTH OF NIC WIEHAHN (STATE 66742). IN VIEW OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION WHICH THE TYACKES AND DOWWES DEKKER HAVE GIVEN TO WIEHAHN'S COMMISSION

ON LABOR REFORM (JOHANNESBURG A-18), HE MIGHT ALSO BE PERSUADED
TO APPROACH KRUGER ON LIFTING THE BANNINGS. REMOVAL OF THE
TYACKES' AND DOWWES DEKKERS' BANNINGS COULD BE SEEN AS AN
IMPORTANT TEST OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO
MOVE AWAY FROM INSTITUTIONALIZED DISCRIMINATION IN INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS.
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